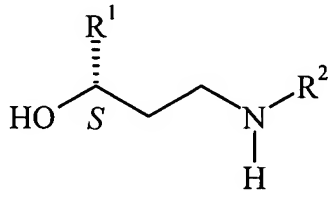
Amendments To The Claims

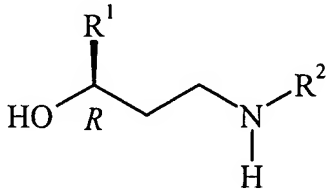
This Listing Of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of a salt of a carboxylic acid with an aminoalcohol of formula:



Ia,

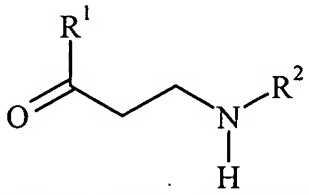


Ib,

and/or

wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of 2-thienyl, 2-furanyl, phenyl, 2-thienyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, 2-furanyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}alkoxy, and phenyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4}-alkyl, phenyl, C_{1-4}-alkyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and phenyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy,

comprising asymmetrically hydrogenating a salt of a carboxylic acid with an aminoketone of formula:

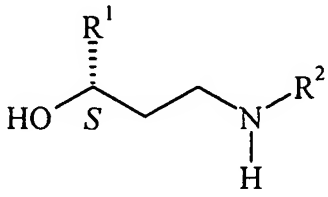


II,

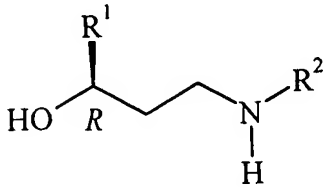
wherein R^1 and R^2 are as defined above,

in the presence of a catalytic amount of a catalyst comprising a transition metal complex of a diphosphine ligand.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A ~~The~~ process ~~of Claim 1,~~ comprising preparing ~~for the preparation of~~ a salt of a carboxylic acid with an aminoalcohol of formula:



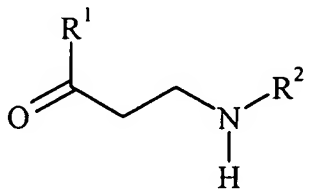
Ia,



Ib,

and/or

wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of 2-thienyl, 2-furanyl, phenyl, 2-thienyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, 2-furanyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and phenyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and wherein R^2 is C_{1-4}-alkyl, phenyl, C_{1-4}-alkyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and phenyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkoxy, ~~comprising~~ by asymmetrically hydrogenating a salt of a carboxylic acid, wherein the carboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of substituted C_{1-18}-ankanoic acids, substituted monocyclic aromatics acids and substituted bicyclic acids, with an aminoketone of formula:



II,

wherein R^1 and R^2 are as defined above,

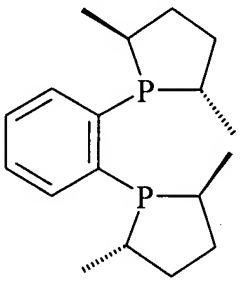
in the presence of a catalytic amount of a catalyst comprising a transition metal complex of a diphosphine ligand.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 2, wherein R^1 is 2-thienyl, or 2-thienyl substituted with at least one halogen, and R^2 is methyl or ethyl.

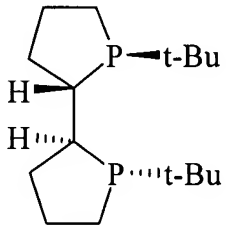
Claim 4 (Original): The process of claim 3, wherein the compound of formula II is selected from the group consisting of (*S*)-(−)-3-*N*-methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)-1-propanol, (*S*)-(−)-3-*N*-methyl-amino-1-(3-chloro-2-thienyl)-1-propanol, (*R*)-(+)-3-*N*-methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)-1-propanol and (*R*)-(+)-3-*N*-methylamino-1-(3-chloro-2-thienyl)-1-propanol.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 4, wherein the transition metal is selected from the group consisting of rhodium, ruthenium and ~~or~~ iridium.

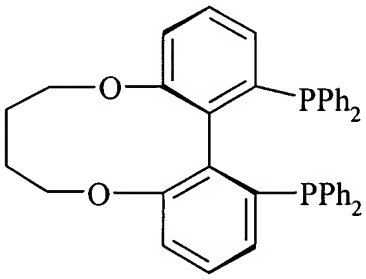
Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 7, wherein the diphosphine ligand is selected from the group consisting of:



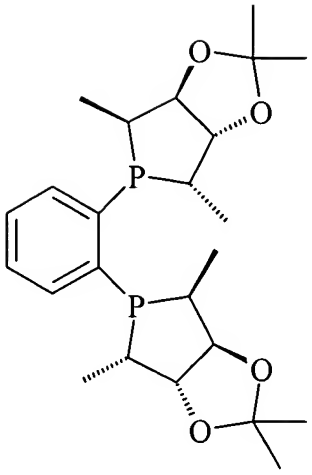
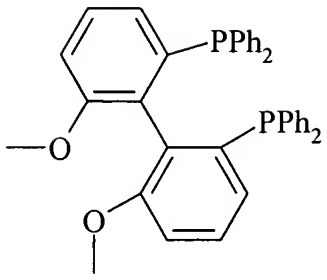
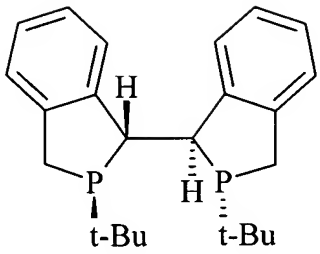
(*S,S*)-"Me-DuPhos",



(*R,R,S,S*)-"TangPhos",



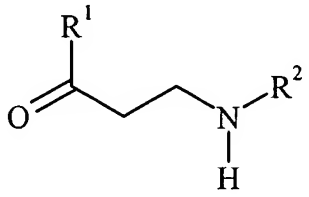
(*S*)-"C4-TunePhos",

(*S,S,S,S*)-"Me-KetalPhos", (*S*) and (*R*)-"MeO-BiPhep", and "(R_P,R_P,S_C,S_C)-DuanPhos".

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 6, wherein the compound of formulae Ia and/or Ib is obtained from it's corresponding salt with a carboxylic acid by hydrolysis in the presence of an alkali metal hydroxide or an alkaline earth hydroxide.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A salt of a carboxylic acid with an aminoketone of the formula:



II,

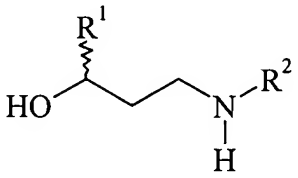
wherein R^1 is 2-thienyl or 2-furanyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy groups, and wherein R^2 is C_{1-4}-alkyl or phenyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy groups.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The salt of claim 8, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-18}-alkanoic acids,

(−)-2,3:4,6-di-*O*-isopropylidene-2-keto-L-gulonic acid,

(+)-2,3:4,6-di-*O*-isopropylidene-2-keto-D-gulonic acid, 2-keto-L-gulonic acid, 2-keto-D-gulonic acid, L-aspartic acid, D-aspartic acid, DL-aspartic acid, benzoic acid, 3-methyl-benzoic acid, salicylic acid, 1-naphthalene carboxylic acid and 2-naphthalenecarboxylic acid.

Currently 10 (Withdrawn): A salt of a carboxylic acid with an aminoalkohol of the formula:



I,

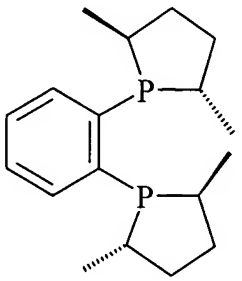
wherein R^1 is 2-furanyl or phenyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy groups, and wherein R^2 is C_{1-4}-alkyl or phenyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy groups, with the exception of salts, wherein the acid is (−)-2,3:4,6-di-*O*-isopropylidene-2-keto-L-gulonic acid or (+)-2,3:4,6-di-*O*-isopropylidene-2-keto-D-gulonic acid.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the transitional metal complex of a diphosphine ligand is a transitional metal complex of an aryldiphosphine ligand or a biaryldiphosphine ligand.

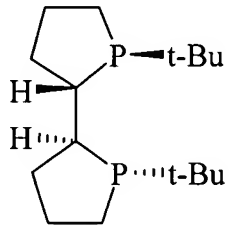
Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein R^1 is 2-thienyl, optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, and R^2 is methyl or ethyl.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the transition metal is rhodium.

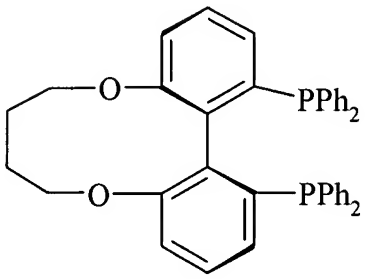
Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the diphosphine ligand is selected from the group consisting of:



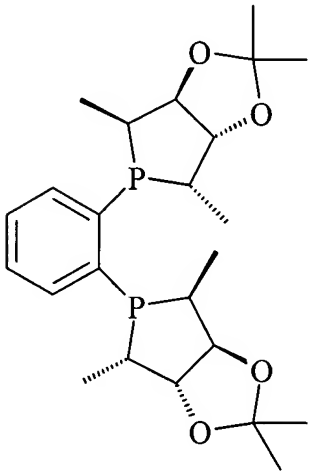
(*S,S*)-"Me-DuPhos",

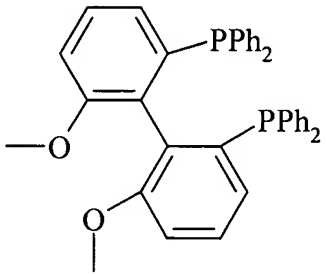


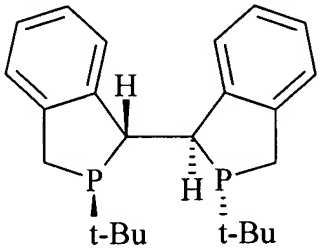
(*R,R,S,S*)-"TangPhos",



(*S*)-"C4-TunePhos",

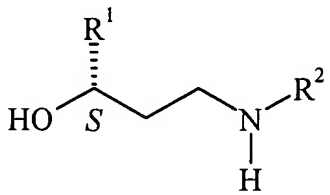




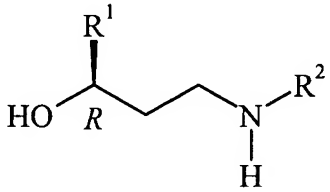


(*S,S,S,S*)-"Me-KetalPhos", (*S*) and (*R*)-"MeO-BiPhep", and "(R_P,R_P,S_C,S_C)-DuanPhos".

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A ~~The~~ process ~~of claim 1, wherein~~ for the preparation of a salt of a carboxylic acid with an aminoalcohol of formula:



Ia,



Ib,

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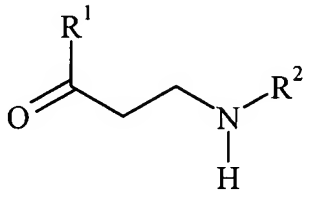
and/or

wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of 2-thienyl, 2-furanyl, phenyl,

2-thienyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, 2-furanyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}alkoxy, and phenyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4}-alkyl, phenyl, C_{1-4}-alkyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and phenyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy,

comprising:

(i) asymmetrically hydrogenating a salt of a carboxylic acid with an aminoketone of formula:



II,

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wherein R^1 and R^2 are as defined above,

in the presence of a catalytic amount of a catalyst comprising a transition metal complex of a diphosphine ligand; and

(ii) obtaining a compound ~~the compounds~~ of formulae Ia and/or Ib ~~is obtained~~ from its corresponding salt with a carboxylic acid by hydrolysis of said corresponding salt in the presence of an alkali metal hydroxide or an alkaline metal hydroxide.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 2, wherein the substituted C_{1-18}-alkanoic acid is substituted with at least one C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{1-6}-alkoxy, aryl, amino, protected carbonyl, halogen, hydroxyl or further carboxylic.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 2, wherein the substituted

monocyclic aromatic acid is substituted with at least one member selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen and ~~or~~ hydroxyl.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 2, wherein the substituted bicyclic aromatic acid is substituted with at least one member selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}-alkoxy, halogen and hydroxyl.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The process of ~~Claim~~ claim 1; wherein the catalyst is present in a catalytic amount.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The process of ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid is a monocarboxylic acid.